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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 09/923,427      | 08/08/2001  | Yasuo Hira           | 500.40449X00        | 9948             |

24956 7590 08/18/2006

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EXAMINER

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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
|----------|--------------|
|----------|--------------|

2129

DATE MAILED: 08/18/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

|                              |                        |                     |  |
|------------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>Office Action Summary</b> | <b>Application No.</b> | <b>Applicant(s)</b> |  |
|                              | 09/923,427             | HIRA ET AL.         |  |
|                              | <b>Examiner</b>        | <b>Art Unit</b>     |  |
|                              | Peter Coughlan         | 2129                |  |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 May 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 August 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)               | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/6/2004</u> .  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## Detailed Action

1. This office action is in response to an AMENDMENT entered April 18, 2006 for the patent application 09/923427 filed on August 8, 2001.
2. The Non-Final Office Action of August 21, 2006 is fully incorporated into this Final Office Action by reference.

### ***Status of Claims***

3. Claims 1-43 are pending.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-5, 8-13, 16, 17, 20, 21, 24, 25, 28-45 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Syeda-Mahmood in view of Baker. (U. S. Patent 5920856, referred to as **Syeda-Mahmood**; U. S. Patent 6076083, referred to as **Baker**)

Claim 1

Syeda-Mahmood teaches receiving, at the site server, an instruction including an information on a database to be searched related to a problem input by a user (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:29-64; 'Server' and 'instruction' of applicant is equivalent to 'web server' and 'query' Syeda-Mahmood.); searching either one of a meta database which has been provided, within a second apparatus including a content offer server in advance or a case database provided within a server, in accordance with the information (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C5:39 through C6:22; 'Case database' of applicant is equivalent to 'first level' of Syeda-Mahmood. 'Meta database' of applicant is equivalent to 'second level' of Syeda-Mahmood.); determining whether or not the meta database is to be searched in accordance with the information on the database to be searched (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C5:28-38; Determination of which database to use is executed by the 'refining module' of Syeda-Mahmood.); searching said meta database, if it is determined that the meta database is to, be searched, or searching said case database, if it determined that the meta database is not to be searched. for a rule for solving the problem in response to the instruction input, the meta database including a plurality of rules extracted from a plurality of actual examples regarding new solutions for any of the problems (**Syeda-Mahmood**, abstract; Recalling which database contains the requested information of

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applicant is performed by the 'indexing' module of Syeda-Mahmood.), each of the rules being a physical or chemical rule having been indexed by both an improving physical or chemical parameter and a deteriorating physical or chemical parameter in advance, the case database containing the new solutions to solve the problems, each example including an instrument having a predetermined function according to the plurality of rules to determine information on a relationship between one of the solutions and one of the problems to be solved thereby to generate data regarding the examples of new solutions. (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:65 through C2:16; 'Physical parameter' of applicant is equivalent to 'image based content' of Syeda-Mahmood. 'Improving physical' or 'deteriorating physical...parameter(s) in advance' of applicant is illustrated by 'Query is posed...may need consolidation and summarization...the transformation...into a form suitable...may require eliciting more information' of Syeda-Mahmood.)

Syeda-Mahmood does not teach displaying on said display at the site server, said data regarding the examples of new solutions to solve the problem related to the instruction input with corresponding instruments and with corresponding rules in the plurality of rules in the meta database.

Baker teaches displaying on said display at the site server, said data regarding the examples of new solutions to solve the problem related to the instruction input with corresponding instruments and with corresponding rules in the plurality of rules in the meta database. (**Baker**, C7:18 through C8:7; 'Display' of applicant is equivalent to 'interface' of Baker. 'Solutions' of applicant is equivalent to 'potential causes of the problem' of Baker. 'Instruments' of applicant is equivalent to 'data from the network is

collected' of Baker. 'Rules' of applicant is equivalent to 'Bayesian network' of Baker.) It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Syeda-Mahmood by outputting the results as taught by Baker to display at the site server, said data regarding the examples of new solutions to solve the problem related to the instruction input with corresponding instruments and with corresponding rules in the plurality of rules in the meta database.

For the purpose of being able to see the results of the invention.

#### Claim 2

Syeda-Mahmood teaches displaying a plurality of solution rules based on said meta rule searched out from said meta database in order to urge the user to think up an idea for a new solution. (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:65 through C2:16; 'Urge the user to think up an idea' of applicant is equivalent to 'require eliciting more information' of Syeda-Mahmood.)

#### Claim 3

Syeda-Mahmood teaches displaying a plurality of examples of solution searched out from said case database in order to urge the user to think up an idea for a new solution. (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:65 through C2:16 and C6:60 through C7:13; 'Urge the user to think up an idea' of applicant is equivalent to 'require eliciting more information' of Syeda-Mahmood. 'Examples of solutions' of applicant is equivalent to 'initial site selection' of Syeda-Mahmood.)

Claim 4

Syeda-Mahmood teaches displaying a plurality of solution rules based on said meta rule searched out from said meta database, and a plurality of proposed contents that offer a solution based on said solution rules in order to urge the user to think up an idea for a new solution. (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:65 through C2:16 and C7:14-39; 'Urge the user to think up an idea' of applicant is equivalent to 'require eliciting more information' of Syeda-Mahmood. 'Solutions rules' of applicant is equivalent to 'output of the refining module' of Syeda-Mahmood.)

Claim 5

Syeda-Mahmood teaches displaying a plurality of solution rules based on said meta rule searched out from said meta database, a plurality of examples of solution searched out from said case database, and a plurality of contents that offer said solution examples in order to urge the user to think up an idea for a new solution. (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:65 through C2:16, C6:60 through C7:13 and C7:14-39; 'Urge the user to think up an idea' of applicant is equivalent to 'require eliciting more information' of Syeda-Mahmood. 'Solutions rules' of applicant is equivalent to 'output of the refining module' of Syeda-Mahmood. 'Examples of solutions' of applicant is equivalent to 'initial site selection' of Syeda-Mahmood.)

Claim 8

Syeda-Mahmood teaches means for accepting, at a first apparatus, data including an information on a database to be searched about a problem sent from a demander who requests for providing an information service (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:29-64; 'Means for accepting' is accomplished by the 'web server' of Syeda-Mahmood. 'Request' of applicant is equivalent to 'query' Syeda-Mahmood.); means for determining whether or not a meta database is to be searched in accordance with the information on the database to be searched (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C5:28-38; Determination of which database to use is executed by the 'refining module' of Syeda-Mahmood.); means for searching for a rule for solving the problem in the meta database, if it is determined that the meta database is to be searched, or searching a case database, if it is determined that the meta database is not to be searched, in accordance with the information, and in response to an instruction input by the demander, where the meta database and the case database are provided ; in a second apparatus including a content offer server in advance, the meta database including a plurality of rules extracted from a plurality of actual examples (**Syeda-Mahmood**, abstract; Recalling which database contains the requested information of applicant is performed by the 'indexing' module of Syeda-Mahmood.), each of the rules being a physical or chemical rule having been indexed by both an improving physical or chemical parameter and a deteriorating physical or chemical parameter in advance, the case database including a new solution to solve the problem, each example including an instrument having a predetermined function according to the plurality of rules to determine an information on a relationship between a solution and a. problem to be solved thereby. (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:65 through C2:16;



'Physical parameter' of applicant is equivalent to 'image based content' of Syeda-Mahmood. 'Improving physical' or 'deteriorating physical... parameter(s) in advance' of applicant is illustrated by 'Query is posed... may need consolidation and summarization... the transformation... into a form suitable... may require eliciting more information' of Syeda-Mahmood.)

Syeda-Mahmood does not teach means for displaying on a display connected to the first apparatus, data regarding the examples of new solutions to solve the problem of the accepted data with corresponding instruments and with corresponding rules in the plurality of rules in the meta database.

Baker teaches means for displaying on a display connected to the first apparatus, data regarding the examples of new solutions to solve the problem of the accepted data with corresponding instruments and with corresponding rules in the plurality of rules in the meta database. (**Baker**, C7:18 through C8:7; 'Display' of applicant is equivalent to 'interface' of Baker. 'Solutions' of applicant is equivalent to 'potential causes of the problem' of Baker. 'Instruments' of applicant is equivalent to 'data from the network is collected' of Baker. 'Rules' of applicant is equivalent to 'Bayesian network' of Baker.) It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Syeda-Mahmood by outputting the result as taught by Baker to have the means for displaying on a display connected to the first apparatus, data regarding the examples of new solutions to solve the problem of the accepted data with corresponding instruments and with corresponding rules in the plurality of rules in the meta database.

For the purpose of seeing the result and being able to utilize it.

Claim 9

Syeda-Mahmood teaches data accepting means receives data to be improved.

(**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:65 through C2:16; 'Accepting means receives data to be improved' of applicant is illustrated by the 'transformation of a user query' that will 'elicit(ing) more information' of Syeda-Mahmood.)

Claim 10

Syeda-Mahmood teaches a solution database stores said data of said solution rules concerned with said problem and said received data to be improved in association with each other. (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:65 through C2:16; 'Accepting means receives data to be improved' of applicant is illustrated by the 'transformation of a user query' that will 'elicit(ing) more information' of Syeda-Mahmood.)

Claim 11

Syeda-Mahmood teaches accepting, at a first apparatus, data regarding an instruction of a problem by a user including an information on a database to be searched (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:29-64; 'Accepting' is accomplished by the 'web server' of Syeda-Mahmood. 'Instruction' of applicant is equivalent to 'query' Syeda-Mahmood.); receiving said data of said problem (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:29-64; 'Receiving said data' of applicant is equivalent to 'query is processed' of Syeda-Mahmood.); determining whether or not a meta database is to be searched in accordance with the information on

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a database to be searched (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C5:28-38; Determination of which database to use is executed by the 'refining module' of Syeda-Mahmood.); searching the meta database, if it is determined that the meta database is to be searched, or searching a case database, if it is determined that the meta database is not to be searched, for a rule for solving the problem, in response to the instruction and in accordance with the information on the database to be searched, where the meta database and the case database have been provided within a second apparatus including a content offer server in advance, the meta database including a plurality of rules extracted from a plurality of actual examples (**Syeda-Mahmood**, abstract; Recalling which database contains the requested information of applicant is performed by the 'indexing' module of Syeda-Mahmood.), each of the rules being a physical or chemical rule having been indexed by both an improving physical or chemical parameter and a deteriorating physical or chemical parameter in advance, the case database including a new solution to solve the problem, each example including an instrument having a predetermined function according to the plurality of rules to determine an information on a relationship between the solution and the problem to be solved thereby. (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:65 through C2:16; 'Physical parameter' of applicant is computer, the medium containing instructions stored therein for proving a solution to equivalent to 'image based content' of Syeda-Mahmood. 'Improving physical' or 'deteriorating physical...parameter(s) in advance' of applicant is illustrated by 'Query is posed...may need consolidation and summarization...the transformation...into a form suitable...may require eliciting more information' of Syeda-Mahmood.)

Syeda-Mahmood does not teach displaying on a display at said first apparatus, data regarding the examples of new solutions to solve the problem of the accepted data with corresponding instruments and with corresponding rules in the plurality of rules in the meta database.

Baker teaches displaying on a display at said first apparatus, data regarding the examples of new solutions to solve the problem of the accepted data with corresponding instruments and with corresponding rules in the plurality of rules in the meta database. (**Baker**, C7:18 through C8:7; 'Display' of applicant is equivalent to 'interface' of Baker. 'Solutions' of applicant is equivalent to 'potential causes of the problem' of Baker. 'Instruments' of applicant is equivalent to 'data from the network is collected' of Baker. 'Rules' of applicant is equivalent to 'Bayesian network' of Baker.) It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Syeda-Mahmood by outputting the results as taught by Baker to display at said first apparatus, data regarding the examples of new solutions to solve the problem of the accepted data with corresponding instruments and with corresponding rules in the plurality of rules in the meta database.

For the purpose of seeing the result and being able to utilize it.

#### Claim 12

Syeda-Mahmood teaches accepting, at a first apparatus, data regarding an instruction of a problem by a user including an information on a database to be searched (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:29-64; 'Accepting' is accomplished by the 'web server' of Syeda-

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Mahmood. 'Instruction' of applicant is equivalent to 'query' Syeda-Mahmood.); receiving said data of said problem (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:29-64; 'Receiving said data' of applicant is equivalent to 'query is processed' of Syeda-Mahmood.); determining whether or not a meta database is to be searched in accordance with information on the database to be searched (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C5:28-38; Determination of which database to use is executed by the 'refining module' of Syeda-Mahmood.); searching, in accordance with the information, on the database to be searched, the meta database, if it is determined that the meta database is to be searched, or searching, a case database, if it is determined that the meta database is not to be searched, for a rule for solving the problem, where the meta database and the case database have been provided within in-a second apparatus including a content offer server in advance, the case database having solution rules stored in association with said data regarding a solution to solve the problem, and the meta database having examples of new solutions in association with said problem, each of the examples including an instrument having a predetermined function according to the rules (**Syeda-Mahmood**, abstract; Recalling which database contains the requested information of applicant is performed by the 'indexing' module of Syeda-Mahmood.), each of the rules being physical or chemical rules having been indexed by both an improving physical or chemical parameter and a deteriorating physical or chemical parameter in advance. (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:65 through C2:16; 'Physical parameter' of applicant is equivalent to 'image based content' of Syeda-Mahmood. 'Improving physical' or 'deteriorating physical...parameter(s) in advance' of applicant is illustrated by 'Query is posed...may need consolidation and

summarization...the transformation...into a form suitable...may require eliciting more information' of Syeda-Mahmood.)

Syeda-Mahmood does not teach extracting and displaying, at a display at the first apparatus, a new solution corresponding to a result of having searched for said solution rules and with corresponding rules in the plurality of rules in the meta database

Baker teaches extracting and displaying, at a display at the first apparatus, a new solution corresponding to a result of having searched for said solution rules and with corresponding rules in the plurality of rules in the meta database. (**Baker**, C7:18 through C8:7; 'Display' of applicant is equivalent to 'interface' of Baker. 'Solutions' of applicant is equivalent to 'potential causes of the problem' of Baker. 'Instruments' of applicant is equivalent to 'data from the network is collected' of Baker. 'Rules' of applicant is equivalent to 'Bayesian network' of Baker.) It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Syeda-Mahmood by outputting the result of the invention as taught by Baker for extracting and displaying, at a display at the first apparatus, a new solution corresponding to a result of having searched for said solution rules and with corresponding rules in the plurality of rules in the meta database

For the purpose of seeing the result and being able to utilize it.

#### Claim 13

Syeda-Mahmood teaches a function to extract said solution corresponding to said solution rules has a function to search a content database having information of

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solutions associated with said solution rules. (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C5:28-38; 'Function to extract' of applicant is equivalent to 'search agent' of Syeda-Mahmood.)

Claims 16, 20, 24 and 28

Syeda-Mahmood teaches displaying a history of said instructions input by said user. (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C7:14-39; 'History' of applicant is equivalent to 'query data patterns' of Syeda-Mahmod.)

Claims 17, 21, 25 and 29

Syeda-Mahmood does not teach displaying a plurality of instruments in the solution with their priority levels in an order of degree of difficulty in destroying a sample to be analyzed when a morphologic observation is selected as the analysis selection.

Baker teaches displaying a plurality of instruments in the solution with their priority levels in an order of degree of difficulty in destroying a sample to be analyzed when a morphologic observation is selected as the analysis selection. (**Baker**, C12:66 through C13:18; 'Priority levels' of applicant is equivalent to 'high level of listings' of Baker.) It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Syeda-Mahmood by illustrating priority settings in regards to solutions as taught by Baker to display a plurality of instruments in the solution with their priority levels in an order of degree of difficulty in destroying a sample to be analyzed when a morphologic observation is selected as the analysis selection.

For the purpose of aiding the user in deciding instruments selection based on the priority levels.

Claim 30

Syeda-Mahmood teaches determining whether or not a meta database is to be searched in accordance with information on a database to be searched (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C5:28-38; Determination of which database to use is executed by the 'refining module' of Syeda-Mahmood.); searching, at the site server, in response to an instruction including the, information on the database to be searched related to the problem input by a user, the meta database, if it is determined the meta database is to be searched, or searching case database, if it is determined that the meta database is not to be searched, for a rule for solving a problem, the meta database including a plurality of rules extracted from a plurality of actual examples regarding new solutions to solve problems (**Syeda-Mahmood**, abstract; Recalling which database contains the requested information of applicant is performed by the 'indexing' module of Syeda-Mahmood.), each of the rules being a physical or chemical rule having been indexed by both an improving physical or chemical parameter and a deteriorating physical or chemical parameter in advance, each of the examples including an analytical instrument to generate a relationship between each solution and each problem to be solved thereby, the instruction being related to a combination of a state selection, a part selection and an analysis condition of selection, and a corresponding solution comprising a combination of an analytical technique and the analytical instrument. (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:65



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through C2:16; 'Physical parameter' of applicant is equivalent to 'image based content' of Syeda-Mahmood. 'Improving physical' or 'deteriorating physical...parameter(s) in advance' of applicant is illustrated by 'Query is posed...may need consolidation and summarization...the transformation...into a form suitable...may require eliciting more information' of Syeda-Mahmood.)

Syeda-Mahmood does not teach displaying data on said display at the site server regarding the examples of new solutions to solve the problem input by the user along with corresponding instrument based on a search result and with corresponding rules in the plurality of rules in the meta database, history of input instructions, and a plurality of instruments in the solutions with their priority levels in an order of degree of difficulty in destroying a sample to be analyzed when a morphologic observation is selected as the analysis selection.

Baker teaches displaying data on said display at the site server regarding the examples of new solutions to solve the problem input by the user along with corresponding instrument based on a search result and with corresponding rules in the plurality of rules in the meta database, history of input instructions, and a plurality of instruments in the solutions with their priority levels in an order of degree of difficulty in destroying a sample to be analyzed when a morphologic observation is selected as the analysis selection. (**Baker**, C7:18 through C8:7; 'Display' of applicant is equivalent to 'interface' of Baker. 'Solutions' of applicant is equivalent to 'potential causes of the problem' of Baker. 'Instruments' of applicant is equivalent to 'data from the network is collected' of Baker. 'Rules' of applicant is equivalent to 'Bayesian network' of Baker.) It

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would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Syeda-Mahmood by outputting examples of solutions as taught by Baker to display data on said display at the site server regarding the examples of new solutions to solve the problem input by the user along with corresponding instrument based on a search result and with corresponding rules in the plurality of rules in the meta database, history of input instructions, and a plurality of instruments in the solutions with their priority levels in an order of degree of difficulty in destroying a sample to be analyzed when a morphologic observation is selected as the analysis selection.

For the purpose of seeing some possible solutions in the form of examples with corresponding priority levels.

#### Claim 31

Syeda-Mahmood teaches means for accepting data including an information on a database to be searched about a problem sent from a demander who requests for providing an information service (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:29-64; 'Means for accepting' is accomplished by the 'web server' of Syeda-Mahmood. 'Request' of applicant is equivalent to 'query' Syeda-Mahmood.); means for determining whether or not a meta database is to be searched in accordance with the information on the database to be searched (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C5:28-38; Determination of which database to use is executed by the 'refining module' of Syeda-Mahmood.); means for searching the meta database, if it is determined that the meta database is to be searched, or searching a

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case database, if it is determined that the meta database is not to be searched, where the meta database and the case database have been provided in a content offer server in advance, for a rule for solving the problem in response to an instruction input by the demander and in accordance with the information on the database to be searched, the meta database including a plurality of rules extracted from a plurality of actual examples regarding a new solution to solve the problem (**Syeda-Mahmood**, abstract; Recalling which database contains the requested information of applicant is performed by the 'indexing' module of Syeda-Mahmood.), the-each of the rules being a physical or chemical rule having been indexed by both an improving physical or chemical parameter and a deteriorating physical or chemical parameter in advance, each of the examples including an analytical instrument to determine an information on a relationship between the new solution and the problem to be solved, the instruction being related to a combination of a state selection, a part selection and an analysis condition of selection, and a corresponding solution comprising a combination of an analytical technique and the analytical instrument. (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:65 through C2:16; 'Physical parameter' of applicant is equivalent to 'image based content' of Syeda-Mahmood. 'Improving physical' or 'deteriorating physical...parameter(s) in advance' of applicant is illustrated by 'Query is posed...may need consolidation and summarization...the transformation...into a form suitable...may require eliciting more information' of Syeda-Mahmood.)

Syeda-Mahmood does not teach means for displaying data regarding the examples of new solutions to solve the problem along with corresponding instruments

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based on a search result and with corresponding rules in the plurality of rules in the meta database, history of input instructions, and a plurality of instruments in the solutions with their priority levels in an order of degree of difficulty in destroying a sample to be analyzed when a morphological observation is selected as the analysis selection.

Baker teaches means for displaying data regarding the examples of new solutions to solve the problem along with corresponding instruments based on a search result and with corresponding rules in the plurality of rules in the meta database, history of input instructions, and a plurality of instruments in the solutions with their priority levels in an order of degree of difficulty in destroying a sample to be analyzed when a morphological observation is selected as the analysis selection. (**Baker**, C7:18 through C8:7; 'Display' of applicant is equivalent to 'interface' of Baker. 'Solutions' of applicant is equivalent to 'potential causes of the problem' of Baker. 'Instruments' of applicant is equivalent to 'data from the network is collected' of Baker. 'Rules' of applicant is equivalent to 'Bayesian network' of Baker.) It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Syeda-Mahmood by outputting examples of solutions as taught by Baker to have the means for displaying data regarding the examples of new solutions to solve the problem along with corresponding instruments based on a search result and with corresponding rules in the plurality of rules in the meta database, history of input instructions, and a plurality of instruments in the solutions with their priority levels in an order of degree of

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difficulty in destroying a sample to be analyzed when a morphological observation is selected as the analysis selection.

For the purpose of seeing some possible solutions in the form of examples with corresponding priority levels.

#### Claim 32

Syeda-Mahmood teaches receiving data of a problem in an instruction by a user, the instruction including an information on a database to be searched (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:29-64; 'Receiving data' is accomplished by the 'web server' of Syeda-Mahmood. 'Instruction' of applicant is equivalent to 'query' Syeda-Mahmood.); determining whether or not a meta database is to be searched in accordance with the information on the database to be searched (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C5:28-38; Determination of which database to use is executed by the 'refining module' of Syeda-Mahmood.); searching the meta database, if it is determined that the meta database is to be searched. or searching a case database, if it is determined that the meta database is not to be searched, where the meta database and the case database have been provided in a content offer server in advance, for a rule for solving the problem in response to the instruction and in accordance with the information on the database to be searched, the meta database including a plurality of rules extracted from a plurality of actual examples regarding a new solution to solve the problem (**Syeda-Mahmood**, abstract; Recalling which database contains the requested information of applicant is performed by the 'indexing' module of Syeda-Mahmood.), each of the rules being a

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physical or chemical rule having been indexed by both an improving physical or chemical parameter and a deteriorating physical or chemical parameter in advance, each of the examples including an analytical instrument to determine an information on a relationship between the new solution and the problem to be solved thereby, the instruction being related to a combination of a state selection, a part selection and an analysis condition of selection, and a corresponding solution comprising a combination of an analytical technique and an analytical instrument. (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:65 through C2:16; 'Physical parameter' of applicant is equivalent to 'image based content' of Syeda-Mahmood. 'Improving physical' or 'deteriorating physical...parameter(s) in advance' of applicant is illustrated by 'Query is posed...may need consolidation and summarization...the transformation...into a form suitable...may require eliciting more information' of Syeda-Mahmood.)

Syeda-Mahmood does not teach displaying data regarding the examples of new solutions to solve the problem along with corresponding instruments by use of a search result and with corresponding rules in the plurality of rules in the meta database, history of input instructions, and a plurality of instruments in the new solution with their priority levels in an order of degree of difficulty in destroying a sample to be analyzed when a morphologic observation is selected as the analysis selection.

Baker teaches displaying data regarding the examples of new solutions to solve the problem along with corresponding instruments by use of a search result and with corresponding rules in the plurality of rules in the meta database, history of input instructions, and a plurality of instruments in the new solution with their priority levels in

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an order of degree of difficulty in destroying a sample to be analyzed when a morphologic observation is selected as the analysis selection. (**Baker**, C7:18 through C8:7; 'Display' of applicant is equivalent to 'interface' of Baker. 'Solutions' of applicant is equivalent to 'potential causes of the problem' of Baker. 'Instruments' of applicant is equivalent to 'data from the network is collected' of Baker. 'Rules' of applicant is equivalent to 'Bayesian network' of Baker.) It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Syeda-Mahmood by outputting examples of solutions as taught by Baker to display data regarding the examples of new solutions to solve the problem along with corresponding instruments by use of a search result and with corresponding rules in the plurality of rules in the meta database, history of input instructions, and a plurality of instruments in the new solution with their priority levels in an order of degree of difficulty in destroying a sample to be analyzed when a morphologic observation is selected as the analysis selection.

For the purpose of seeing some possible solutions in the form of examples with corresponding priority levels.

### Claim 33

Syeda-Mahmood teaches receiving data of a problem in an instruction by a user, the instruction including an information on a database to be searched (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:29-64; 'Receiving data' is accomplished by the 'web server' of Syeda-Mahmood. 'Instruction' of applicant is equivalent to 'query' Syeda-Mahmood.);

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determining whether or not a meta database is to be searched in accordance with the information on the database to be searched (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C5:28-38; Determination of which database to use is executed by the 'refining module' of Syeda-Mahmood.); searching the meta database, if it is determined that the meta database is to be searched, or searching a case database, if it is determined that the meta database is not to be searched. in accordance with the information, on a database to be searched, for a rule for solving the problem, where the meta database and the case database have been providers within a content offer server in advance, the case database having solution rules stored in association with said data regarding a new solution to solve the problem, and the meta database having examples of new solutions in association with said problem (**Syeda-Mahmood**, abstract; Recalling which database contains the requested information of applicant is performed by the 'indexing' module of Syeda-Mahmood.), each of the rules being physical or chemical rules having been indexed by both an improving physical or chemical parameter and a deteriorating physical or chemical parameter in advance, each of the examples including an analytical instrument, the instruction being related to a combination of a state selection, a part selection and an analysis condition of a selection, and a corresponding solution comprising a combination of an analytical technique and the analytical instrument. (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:65 through C2:16; 'Physical parameter' of applicant is equivalent to 'image based content' of Syeda-Mahmood. 'Improving physical' or 'deteriorating physical...parameter(s) in advance' of applicant is illustrated by 'Query is posed...may



need consolidation and summarization...the transformation...into a form suitable...may require eliciting more information' of Syeda-Mahmood.)

Syeda-Mahmood does not teach extracting and displaying a new solution corresponding to a result of having searched for said solution rules, history of input instruction, and a plurality of instruments in the solution with their priority levels in an order of degree of difficulty in destroying a sample to be analyzed when a morphologic observation is selected as the analysis selection.

Baker teaches extracting and displaying a new solution corresponding to a result of having searched for said solution rules, history of input instruction, and a plurality of instruments in the solution with their priority levels in an order of degree of difficulty in destroying a sample to be analyzed when a morphologic observation is selected as the analysis selection. (**Baker**, C7:18 through C8:7; 'Display' of applicant is equivalent to 'interface' of Baker. 'Solutions' of applicant is equivalent to 'potential causes of the problem' of Baker. 'Instruments' of applicant is equivalent to 'data from the network is collected' of Baker. 'Rules' of applicant is equivalent to 'Bayesian network' of Baker.). It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Syeda-Mahmood by outputting examples of solutions as taught by Baker by extracting and displaying a new solution corresponding to a result of having searched for said solution rules, history of input instruction, and a plurality of instruments in the solution with their priority levels in an order of degree of difficulty in destroying a sample to be analyzed when a morphologic observation is selected as the analysis selection.

For the purpose of seeing some possible solutions in the form of examples with corresponding priority levels.

Claim 34

Syeda-Mahmood teaches determining whether or not a meta database is to be searched in accordance with information on a database to be searched (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C5:28-38; Determination of which database to use is executed by the 'refining module' of Syeda-Mahmood.); searching, at the site, a meta database for a rule for solving a problem, if it has been determined that the meta database is to be searched (**Syeda-Mahmood**, abstract; Recalling which database contains the requested information of applicant is performed by the 'indexing' module of Syeda-Mahmood.), said meta database containing a physical or chemical rule or solution having been indexed by both an improving physical or chemical parameter and deteriorating physical or chemical parameter in advance, where the meta database has been provided within a content offer server in advance, in response to an instruction and improving physical or chemical parameter and deteriorating parameter, or an actual example, or if it is determined that the meta database is not to be searched, searching a case database regarding a new solution to said problem in response to said problem input by a user. (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:65 through C2:16; 'Physical parameter' of applicant is equivalent to 'image based content' of Syeda-Mahmood. 'Improving physical' or 'deteriorating physical...parameter(s) in advance' of applicant is illustrated by 'Query is posed... may

need consolidation and summarization...the transformation...into a form suitable...may require eliciting more information' of Syeda-Mahmood.)

Syeda-Mahmood does not teach displaying data, on a display at the site, regarding the examples of new solutions to solve the problem with corresponding rules.

Baker teaches displaying data, on a display at the site, regarding the examples of new solutions to solve the problem with corresponding rules. (**Baker**, C7:18 through C8:7; 'Display' of applicant is equivalent to 'interface' of Baker. 'Solutions' of applicant is equivalent to 'potential causes of the problem' of Baker. 'Instruments' of applicant is equivalent to 'data from the network is collected' of Baker. 'Rules' of applicant is equivalent to 'Bayesian network' of Baker.) It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the teachings of Syeda-Mahmood by outputting examples of solutions as taught by Baker to display data, on a display at the site, regarding the examples of new solutions to solve the problem with corresponding rules.

For the purpose of seeing some possible solutions with corresponding priority levels.

Claims 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42 and 43

Syeda-Mahmood teaches displaying, on the display, data regarding a result of searching the meta database if it is determined that the meta database is to be searched. (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C6:60 through C7:13; By 'determining' which database to access will result in the answers/solutions from that database to be displayed.)

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 6, 7, 14, 18, 22, 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Syeda-Mahmood, and Baker, as set forth above, and further in view of Koski. (U. S. Patent 6571251, referred to as **Koski**)

**Claim 6**

Syeda-Mahmood, and Baker do not teach in order for each customer offered customized solutions and contents, a company database is provided that is concerned with companies which said customer belong to, and searched for each customer's information, and problems and solutions supposed for each customer are enumerated by use of said search result.

Koski teaches in order for each customer offered customized solutions and contents, a company database is provided that is concerned with companies which said customer belong to, and searched for each customer's information, and problems and solutions supposed for each customer are enumerated by use of said search result. (**Koski**, C2:54 through C5:20; Some examples of 'customized solutions' of applicant are 'help desk, sales support, customer service' of Koski.) It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the combined teachings of Syeda-Mahmood, and Baker by offering solutions that are customized to the customer as taught by Koski to order for each customer offered customized solutions and contents, a company database is provided that is concerned with companies which said customer belong to, and searched for each customer's information, and problems and solutions supposed for each customer are enumerated by use of said search result.

For the purpose of having a flexible output that fits a given customer requirements.

#### Claim 7

Syeda-Mahmood, and Baker do not teach in order for each customer offered customized solutions and contents, a company database is provided that is concerned with companies which said customers belong to, and a problem from each customer is easily solved by displaying said contents selected according to the type of said customers.

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Koski teaches in order for each customer offered customized solutions and contents, a company database is provided that is concerned with companies which said customers belong to, and a problem from each customer is easily solved by displaying said contents selected according to the type of said customers. (**Koski**, C2:54 through C5:20; Some examples of 'customized solutions' of applicant are 'help desk, sales support, customer service' of Koski.) It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the combined teachings of Syeda-Mahmood, and Baker by offering solutions that are customized to the customer as taught by Koski to have in order for each customer offered customized solutions and contents, a company database is provided that is concerned with companies which said customers belong to, and a problem from each customer is easily solved by displaying said contents selected according to the type of said customers.

For the purpose of having a flexible output that fits a given customer requirements.

Claims 14, 18, 22 and 26

Syeda-Mahmood, and Baker do not teach the predetermined function of the instrument comprises an analyzing function.

Koski teaches the predetermined function of the instrument comprises an analyzing function. (**Koski**, C3:54 through C4:12; 'Predetermining function' of applicant is equivalent to 'input parser' of Koski. 'Analyzing function' of applicant is equivalent to 'analyzing table' of Koski.) It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill

in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the combined teachings of Syeda-Mahmood, and Baker by having an existing function that performs an analysis function as taught by Koski to have the predetermined function of the instrument comprises an analyzing function.

For the purpose of having a tool that executes analysis functions so that requests can be analyzed.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 15, 19, 23, 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of Syeda-Mahmood, Baker and Koski as set forth above, and further in view of King. (U. S. Patent 6772103, referred to as **King**)

Claims 15, 19, 23 and 27

Syeda-Mahmood, Baker and Koski do not teach the instruction inputted by the user relates to a combination of a state selection, a part selection and an analysis condition of selection, and a corresponding solution comprises a combination of an analytical technique and an analytical instrument.

King teaches the instruction inputted by the user relates to a combination of a state selection, a part selection and an analysis condition of selection, and a corresponding solution comprises a combination of an analytical technique and an analytical instrument. (**King**, C10:65 through C11:13; 'State of applicant is equivalent to 'flow, pressure and level' of King. 'Part selection' of applicant is equivalent to 'pressure transducer' of King. 'Analysis' of applicant is equivalent to 'specific application' of King. 'Analytic technique' of applicant is equivalent to 'systematic approach' of King. 'Analytic instrument' of applicant is equivalent to 'measurement' of King.) It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to modify the combined teachings of Syeda-Mahmood, Baker and Koski by illustrating the input of three conditions will result in a solution based upon an analytical technique as taught by King to have the instruction inputted by the user relates to a combination of a state selection, a part selection and an analysis condition of selection, and a corresponding solution comprises a combination of an analytical technique and an analytical instrument.

For the purpose of demonstrating that a solution is sound based upon it is reached by using input and a analytical method.



### ***Response to Arguments***

5. Applicant's arguments filed on April 18, 2006 for claims 1-43 have been fully considered but are not persuasive.

6. In reference to the Applicant's argument:

#### **35 U.S.C. §102 Resections**

Claims 1-14, 18, 22, and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,571,251 to Koski, et al. ("Koski"). This rejection is traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the present invention, as now more clearly recited in claims 1-14, 18, 22, and 24, are not taught or suggested by Koski, whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Amendments were made to the claims to more clearly describe features of the present invention. Specifically, amendments were made to the claims to more clearly describe that the present invention is directed to a method of generating information on new solutions, an information service providing system, a recording medium, and a method of generating information at an engineering an engineering portal site as recited, for example, in independent claims 1, 8, 11, 12, and 34.

The present invention, as recited in claim 1 and as similarly recited in claims, 8, 11, 12, and 34, provides a method for generating information on new solutions for solving problems. The method includes a step of receiving an instruction that includes information regarding a database to be searched relating to a problem input by a user for searching a meta database. Another step includes judging whether or not the meta database is to be searched in accordance with the information relating to the database to be searched. The method also includes searching for a rule to solve the problem. The meta database is searched, if it is determined that the meta database is to be searched, and the case database is searched, if it is determined that the meta database is not to be searched. The meta database includes a plurality of rules extracted from a plurality of actual examples regarding new solutions, each of the rules being either a physical or chemical rule indexed by both an improving physical or chemical parameter, and a deteriorating physical or chemical parameter. The case database contains new solutions to solve the problems. Each example includes an instrument having a

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predetermined function according to the plurality of rules to determine information regarding a relationship between one of the solutions and one of the problems to be solved to generate data regarding the examples of new solutions. Another step includes displaying on the display the data regarding the examples of new solutions to solve the problem with corresponding instruments and with corresponding rules in the plurality of rules in the meta database. The prior art does not disclose all these features.

The above described features of the present invention, as now more clearly recited in the claims, are not taught or suggested by any of the references of record, particularly Koski, whether taken individually or in combination with any of the other references of record.

Koski discloses a case-based reasoning system and method having a search engine that compares input tokens with view tokens for matching cases within a view. However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Koski of a method of generating information on new solutions, an information service providing system, a recording medium, and a method of generating information at an engineering an engineering portal site as recited in the claims.

Koski provides a case-based reasoning system that includes a case database capable of storing a plurality of cases that each include one or more attributes. A view generator in the case-based reasoning system generates a view of the case database by representing each case within at least a selected subset of the plurality of cases within the case database with one or more uniform-length view tokens. An input parser in the case-based reasoning system provides a tokenized representation of an input incident that includes one or more input tokens. The case-based reasoning system further includes a search engine that compares the input tokens with the view tokens to identify one or more closely matching cases within the view. By searching the view rather than directly searching the case database, cases that closely match the input are efficiently identified.

One feature of the present invention, as recited in claim 1 and as similarly recited in claims 8, 11, 12, and 34, includes determining whether or not a meta database is to be searched in accordance with information regarding the database to be searched. Koski does not disclose this feature. As shown in Fig. 1, Koski discloses a case base 12 and a view storage 16. Column 2, lines 57-59 describes the case base 12 as a database for storing attributes of experiences called cases. Further described in column 3, lines 43-46 is the view storage 16. A view generator 14 generates compact views of the contents of case base 12 and stores the views in view storage 16. The views produced by view generator 14 can be searched much more efficiently than case base 12, permitting rapid identification of one or more cases in case base 12. Unlike in the present invention, Koski does not disclose where a determination is made as to whether or not a meta database, as claimed, is to be searched in accordance with information received regarding the database to be searched. For example, column 3,

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tines 54-66 of Koski merely describes where a user enters a description of an incident, which is then parsed and passed to a search engine. The parsed input is then used to select a particular view from view storage 16, which is then passed on to the search engine. The search engine searches the selected view to identify the case or cases that best match the incident. As such, Koski discloses where the view storage 16 is automatically chosen to be searched, as a matter of efficiency (see also, the last line of the Abstract). In this way, Koski does not disclose determining whether or not a meta database is to be searched in accordance with information on the database to be searched.

Another feature of the present invention, as recited in claim 1 and as similarly recited in claims 8, 11, 12, and 30, includes searching for a rule for solving the problem in response to an input instruction. As shown in Fig. 6 of the present -application, the meta database is searched, if it is determined that the meta database is to be searched. In addition, the case database is searched, if it is determined that the meta database is not to be searched. Koski does not disclose this feature. As previously discussed, Koski does not disclose where a determination is made regarding whether to search a meta database, as claimed. Therefore, it follows that Koski does not disclose where a meta database is searched, if it is determined that the meta database is to be searched, and where a case database is searched, if it is determined that the meta database is not to be searched.

Therefore, Koski fails to teach or suggest "determining whether or not the meta database is to be searched in accordance with the information on the database to be searched" as recited in claim 1, and as similarly recited in claims 8, 11, 12, and 34.

Furthermore, Koski fails to teach or suggest "searching said meta database, if it is determined that the meta database is to be searched, or searching said case database, if it determined that the meta database is not to be searched, for a rule for solving the problem in response to the instruction input, the meta database including a plurality of rules extracted from a plurality of actual examples regarding new solutions for any of the problems, each of the rules being a physical or chemical rule having been indexed by both an improving physical or chemical parameter and a deteriorating physical or chemical parameter in advance, the case database containing the new solutions to solve the problems, each example including an instrument having a predetermined function according to the plurality of rules to determine information on a relationship between one of the solutions and one of the problems to be solved thereby to generate data regarding the examples of new solutions" as recited in claim 1, and as similarly recited in claims 8, 11, 12, and 34.

Therefore, Koski fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention, as now more clearly recited in the claims. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection of claims 1-14, 18, 22, and 34 are respectfully requested:

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The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the references used in the rejection of claims 1-14, 18, 22, and 34.

35 U.S.C. §103 Resections

Examiner's response:

Syeda-Mahmood addresses the issue of new solutions (**Syeda-Mahmood**, abstract), providing information service, recording medium (databases) and generating information (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:29-64). Syeda-Mahmood addresses the database and the meta-database and determining which database to use (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C5:28-38). Syeda-Mahmood addresses 'rules' with 'solution rules' along with the 'improvement' or 'deteriorating' of parameters (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:65 through C2:16).

Baker addresses an 'instrument' that has 'predetermined function' (**Baker**, C7:18 through C8:7).

Syeda-Mahmood is used to introduce 'customized solutions', 'function to extract', 'analyzing function' and 'predetermined function' (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:29-64).

Applicant claims that Koski fails to teach or suggest 'determining whether or not the meta database is to be searched in accordance with the information on the database to be searched.' Syeda-Mahmood teaches 'determining whether or not the meta database is to be searched in accordance with the information on the database to be searched' (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C5:28-38).

Syeda-Mahmood provides 'accepting means receives data to be improved' by 'eliciting more information from the user' (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:29-64).

7. In reference to the Applicant's argument:

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Claims 15, 19, 23, 27, and 30

Claims 15, 19, 23, 27, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Koski in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,772,103 to King. Claims 15, 19, 23, and 27, are dependent on claims 1, 8, 11, and 12. Therefore, claims 15, 19, 23, and 27 are allowable for at least the reasons previously discussed regarding independent claims 1, 8, 11, and 12. This rejection with regard to claim 30 is traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the present invention, as now more clearly recited in claim 30, are not taught or suggested by either Koski or King, whether taken individually or in combination with each other in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Amendments were made to the claims to more clearly describe features of the present invention. Specifically, amendments were made to the claims to more clearly describe that the present invention is directed to a method for generating information on solutions for solving problems as recited, for example, in independent claim 30.

The present invention, as recited in claim 30, includes provides a method for generating information on solutions for solving problems; the generated information being output to a display at a site server. The method includes determining whether or not a meta database is to be searched in accordance with information on a database to be searched. The method also includes searching for a rule for solving a problem either a meta database or a case database, in response to an instruction including the information on the database to be searched. If it is determined that the meta database is to be searched, then the meta database is searched. If it is determined that the meta database is not to be searched, then case database is searched. The meta database includes a plurality of rules extracted from a plurality of actual examples regarding new solutions to solve problems, each of the rules being a physical or chemical rule having been indexed by both an improving physical or chemical parameter and a deteriorating physical or chemical parameter in advance. Each of the examples includes an analytical instrument to generate a relationship between each solution and each problem to be solved. The instruction is related to a combination of a state selection, a part selection and an analysis condition of selection, and a corresponding solution including a combination of an analytical technique and the analytical instrument. The method also includes displaying data on the display at the site server regarding examples of new solutions to solve the problems input by the user along with a corresponding instrument, based on a search result and with corresponding rules in the plurality of rules in the meta database, history of input instructions, and a plurality of instruments in the solutions with their priority levels in an order of degree of difficulty in destroying a sample to be analyzed when a morphologic observation is selected as the analysis selection. The prior art does not disclose all these features.

The above described features of the present invention, as now more clearly recited in the claims, are not taught or suggested by any of the references of record. Specifically,

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the features are not taught or suggested by either Koski or King, whether taken individually or in combination with each other.

As previously discussed, Koski discloses a case-based reasoning system and method having a search engine that compares input tokens with view tokens for matching cases within a view. However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Koski of a method for generating information on solutions for solving problems, as recited in the claims.

One feature of the present invention, as recited in claim 30, includes determining whether or not a meta database is to be searched in accordance with information regarding the database to be searched. Koski does not disclose this feature. As previously discussed, unlike in the present invention, Koski does not disclose where a determination is made as to whether or not a meta database, as claimed, is to be searched in accordance with information received regarding the database to be searched. For example, column 3, lines 54-66 of Koski merely describes where a user enters a description of an incident, which is then parsed and passed to a search engine. The parsed input is then used to select a particular view from view storage 16, which is then passed on to the search engine. The search engine searches the selected view to identify the case or cases that best match the incident. As such, Koski discloses where the view storage 16 is automatically chosen to be searched, as a matter of efficiency (see also, the last line of the Abstract). In this way, Koski does not disclose determining whether or not a meta database is to be searched in accordance with information on the database to be searched.

Another feature of the present invention, as recited in claim 30, includes a step of searching, for a rule for solving a problem, the meta database or a case database. The meta database is searched if it is determined that the meta database is to be searched, and the case database is searched, if it is determined that the meta database is not to be searched. Koski does not disclose this feature. As previously discussed, Koski does not disclose where a determination is made regarding whether to search a meta database, as claimed. Therefore, it follows that Koski does not disclose where a meta database is searched, if it is determined that the meta database is to be searched, and where a case database is searched, if it is determined that the meta database is not to be searched.

Therefore, Koski fails to teach or suggest "determining whether or not a meta database is to be searched in accordance with information on a database to be searched" as recited in claim 30.

Furthermore, Koski fails to teach or suggest means for searching. at the site server, in response to an instruction including the information on the database to be searched related to the problem input by a user, the meta database, if it is, determined the meta database is to be searched, or searching a case database, if it is determined that the meta database is not to be searched, for a rule for solving a problem, the meta database

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including a plurality of rules extracted from a plurality of actual examples regarding new solutions to solve problems, each of the rules being a physical or chemical rule having been indexed by both an improving physical or, chemical parameter and a deteriorating physical or chemical parameter in advance, each of the examples including an analytical instrument to generate a relationship between each solution and each problem to be solved thereby. the instruction being related to a combination of a state selection, a part selection and an analysis condition of selection, and a corresponding solution comprising a combination of an analytical technique and the analytical instrument" as recited in claim 30.

The above noted deficiencies of Koski are not supplied by any of the other references or record, particularly King. Therefore, combining the teachings of King with Koski still fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention, as now more clearly recited in the claims.

King teaches a method for selecting a parts kit detail. However, there is no teaching or suggestion in King of a method for generating information on solutions for solving problems, as recited in the claims.

In King, a method for selecting a parts kit detail for the installation of a pressure transducer on a container such as a pipeline or a vessel is disclosed, where the container holds a fluid material. A parts kit detail is a drawing or a list of the primary parts needed to install a pressure responsive instrument on a pipe line or on a vessel according to a standardized design applicable to at least one installation category. The method includes a step of establishing at least two different installation categories, each such different installation category being defined by the properties of the fluid material. The method also includes a step of establishing at least two different parts kit details, where each applies to the different installation categories.

King's system, which is in a field entirely different from that of the present invention, is nonanalogous art. As provided in MPEP 2141.01(a), a reference relied upon under 35 U.S.C. §103 must be analogous prior art. Specifically, "the reference must either be in the field of Applicants' endeavor or, if not, then be reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the inventor was concerned." In re Oetiker, 977 F.2d 1443, 1446, 24 USPQ2d 1443, 1445 (Fed. Cir. 1992). The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office classified King's method for selecting a parts kit detail under Data Processing: Structural Design, Modeling, Simulation, and Emulation (Class 703). This class has no relationship to the subject matter of the present invention, which has been classified under Data Processing: Database and File Management or Data Structures (Class 707). Therefore, Applicants submit that King is not in the field of Applicants' endeavor. Furthermore, King is not reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the inventor was concerned. Therefore, this rejection should be withdrawn.

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In addition to being nonanalogous art, King does not supply the deficiencies as previously discussed regarding Koski. Therefore, the combination of Koski and King does not provide the invention, as claimed.

For example, one feature of the present invention, as recited in claim 30, includes determining whether or not a meta database is to be searched in accordance with information regarding the database to be searched. King does not disclose this feature. King is directed merely to a method for selecting a parts kit detail. There is no teaching or suggestion in King of determining whether or not a meta database is to be searched, as in the present invention.

By way of further example, another feature of the present invention, as recited in claim 30, includes a step of searching either the meta database or a case database, for a rule for solving a problem. The meta database is searched if it is determined that the meta database is to be searched, and the case database is searched, if it is determined that the meta database is not to be searched. King does not disclose this feature. Again, King is directed merely to a method for selecting a parts kit detail. There is no teaching or suggestion in King of searching either the meta database or a case database, for a rule for solving a problem, as in the present invention.

Therefore, King fails to teach or suggest "determining whether or not a meta database is to be searched in accordance with information on a database to be searched" as recited in claim 30.

Furthermore, King fails to teach or suggest means for searching. at the site, server, in response to an instruction including the information on the database to be searched related to the problem input by a user, the meta database, if it is determined the meta database is to be searched, or searching a case database, if it is determined that the meta database is not to be searched. for a rule for solving a problem, the meta database including a plurality of rules extracted from a plurality of actual examples regarding new solutions to solve problems, each of the rules being a physical or chemical rule having been indexed by both an improving physical or, chemical parameter and a deteriorating physical or chemical parameter in advance, each of the examples including an analytical instrument to generate a relationship between each solution and each problem to be solved thereby. the instruction being related to a combination of a state selection. a part selection and an analysis condition of selection, and a corresponding solution comprising a combination of an analytical technique and the analytical instrument" as recited in claim 30.

Both Koski and King suffer from the same deficiencies relative to the features of the present invention, as recited in claim 30. Therefore, combining the teachings of King with Koski does not render obvious the features of the present invention, as now more clearly recited in claim 30. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 15, 19, 23, 27, and 30 are respectfully requested.



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The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the references used in the rejection of claims 15, 19, 23, 27, and 30.

Examiner's response:

Applicant claims that Koski fails to teach or suggest 'determining whether or not the meta database is to be searched in accordance with the information on the database to be searched.' Applicant claims that King fails to teach or suggest 'determining whether or not the meta database is to be searched in accordance with the information on the database to be searched.' Syeda-Mahmood teaches 'determining whether or not the meta database is to be searched in accordance with the information on the database to be searched' (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C5:28-38).

Applicant claims that King is nonanalogous art. King introduces state, part, analysis, analytic technique, and analytical instrument (**King**, 10:65 through C11:13)

Syeda-Mahmood and Baker address the issue of new solutions (**Syeda-Mahmood**, abstract), providing information service, recording medium (databases) and generating information (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:29-64), the database and the meta-database and determining which database to use (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C5:28-38), 'rules' with 'solution rules' along with the 'improvement' or 'deteriorating' of parameters. (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:65 through C2:16)

Baker addresses 'instrument' that has 'predetermined function', 'displaying data', 'priority levels'.

Koski is used to introduce 'customized solutions', 'function to extract'. (**Baker**, C7:18 through C8:7). 'analyzing function' (**Koski**, C3:54 through C4:12) and 'predetermined function' (**Baker**, C7:18 through C8:7).

Syeda-Mahmood provides 'accepting means receives data to be improved' by 'eliciting more information from the user' (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:29-64).

King is used to introduce the concepts of 'state', 'part selection', 'analysis', 'analytic technique' and 'analytic instrument' (**King**, 10:65 through C11:13).

8. In reference to the Applicant's argument:

Claims 16, 20, 24-26, and 28  
Claims 16, 20, 24-26, and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Koski in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,647,383 to August. This rejection is traversed for the following reasons. Claims 16, 20, 24-26, and 28 are dependent on claims 1, 8, 11, and 12. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 16, 20, 24-26, and 28 are patentable for at least the reasons previously discussed regarding independent claims 1, 8, 11, and 12.

Examiner's response:

August is not used in this office action. Claims 16, 20, 24-26, 28 are all addressed by Syeda-Mahmood, Koski and Baker. Claims 16, 20, 24 and 26 are addressed by Syeda-Mahmood. (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C7:14-39; 'History' of applicant is equivalent to 'query data patterns' of Syeda-Mahmod.) Claim 25 is addressed by Baker (**Baker**, C12:66 through C13:18; 'Priority levels' of applicant is equivalent to 'high level of listings' of Baker.). Claim 26 is addressed by Koski. (**Koski**, C3:54 through C4:12; 'Predetermining function' of applicant is equivalent to 'input parser' of Koski. 'Analyzing function' of applicant is equivalent to 'analyzing table' of Koski.)

9. In reference to the Applicant's argument:

Claims 31-33

Claims 31-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Koski in view of King, further in view of August. This rejection is traversed for the following reasons. Applicants submit that the features of the present invention, as now more clearly recited in the claims, are not taught or suggested by Koski, King or August, whether taken individually, or in combination with each other in the manner suggested by the Examiner. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Amendments were made to the claims to more clearly describe features of the present invention. Specifically, amendments were made to the claims to more clearly describe that the present invention is directed to an information service providing system and a recording medium as recited, for example, in independent claims 31, 32, and 33.

The present invention, as recited in claim 31, and as similarly recited in claims 32 and 33, provides an information service providing system including means for accepting data. The data includes information regarding a database to be searched about a problem from a user who requests an information service. The system also includes means for determining whether or not a meta database is to be searched in accordance with the information on the database to be searched. Also included in the system is a means for searching for a rule for solving the problem in response to an instruction input by the user and in accordance with the information on the database to be searched. The meta database is searched, if it is determined that the meta database is to be searched, and a case database is searched, if it is determined that the meta database is not to be searched. The meta database includes a plurality of rules extracted from a plurality of actual examples regarding a new solution to solve the problem. Each of the rules is a physical or chemical rule indexed by both an improving physical or chemical parameter and a deteriorating physical or chemical parameter in advance. Each of the examples includes an analytical instrument to determine information on a relationship between the new solution and the problem to be solved. The instruction is related to a combination of state selection, a part selection and an analysis condition of selection, and a corresponding solution including a combination of an analytical technique and the analytical instrument. The system further includes a means for displaying the new solutions to solve the problem, along with corresponding instruments based on a search result and the corresponding rules in the plurality of rules in the meta database, history of input instructions, and a plurality of instruments in the solutions with their priority levels in an order of degree of difficulty in destroying a sample to be analyzed when

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morphological observation is selected as the analysis selection. The prior art does not disclose all these features.

The above described features of the present invention, as now more clearly recited in the claims, are not taught or suggested by any of the references of record. Specifically, the features are not taught or suggested by Koski, King, or August, whether taken individually or in combination with each other.

As previously discussed, Koski discloses a case-based reasoning system and method having a search engine that compares input tokens with view tokens for matching cases within a view. However, there is no teaching or suggestion in Koski of an information service providing system or a recording medium as recited, for example, in claims 31, 32 and 33.

One feature of the present invention, as recited in claim 31 and as similarly recited in claims 32 and 33, includes a means for determining whether or not a meta database is to be searched in accordance with information regarding the database to be searched. Koski does not disclose this feature. As previously discussed, unlike in the present invention, Koski does not disclose where a determination is made as to whether or not a meta database, as claimed, is to be searched in accordance with information received regarding the database to be searched. For example, column 3, lines 54-66 of Koski merely describes where a user enters a description of an incident, which is then parsed and passed to a search engine.. The parsed input is then used to select a particular view from view storage 16, which is then passed on to the search engine. The search engine searches the selected view to identify the case or cases that best match the incident. As such, Koski discloses where the view storage 16 is automatically chosen to be searched, as a matter of efficiency (see also, the last line of the Abstract). In this way, Koski does not disclose determining whether or not a meta database is to be searched in accordance with information on the database to be searched.

Another feature of the present invention, as recited in claim 30, includes a means for searching, for a rule for solving a problem, the meta database or a case database. The meta database is searched if it is determined that the meta database is to be searched, and the case database is searched, if it is determined that the meta database is not to be searched. Koski does not disclose this feature. As previously discussed, Koski does not disclose where a determination is made regarding whether to search a meta database, as claimed. Therefore, it follows that Koski does not disclose where a meta database is searched, if it is determined that the meta database is to be searched, and where a case database is searched, if it is determined that the meta database is not to be searched.

Therefore, Koski fails to teach or suggest "means for determining whether or not a meta database is to be searched in accordance with the information on the database to be searched" as recited in claim 31, and as similarly recited in claims 32 and 33.

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Furthermore, Koski fails to teach or suggest "means for searching the meta database, if it is determined that the meta database is to be searched, or searching a case database. if it is determined that the meta database is not to be searched, where the meta database and the case database have been provided in a content offer server in advance, for a rule for solving the problem in response to an instruction input by the demander and in accordance with the information on the database to be searched, the meta database including a plurality of rules extracted from a plurality of actual examples regarding a new solution to solve the problem, each of the rules beina a physical or chemical rule having been indexed by both an improving physical or chemical parameter and a deteriorating physical or chemical parameter in advance, each of the examples including an analytical instrument to determine an information on a relationship between the new solution and the problem to be solved, the instruction beina related to a combination of a state selection, a part selection and an analysis condition of selection, and a corresponding solution comprising a combination of an analytical technique and the analytical instrument" as recited in claim 31, and as similarly recited in claims 32 and 33.

The above noted deficiencies of Koski are not supplied by any of the other references or record, particularly King. Therefore, combining the teachings of King with Koski still fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention, as now more clearly recited in the claims.

As previously discussed, King teaches a method for selecting a parts kit detail. However, there is no teaching or suggestion in King of an information service providing system or recording medium, as recited in the claims.

Also, as previously discussed, King's system, which is in a field entirely different from that of the present invention, is nonanalogous art. As such, Applicants submit that King is not in the field of Applicants' endeavor. Furthermore, King is not reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the inventor was concerned. Therefore, this rejection should be withdrawn.

In addition to being nonanalogous art, King does not supply the deficiencies as previously discussed regarding Koski. Therefore, the combination of Koski and King does not provide the invention, as claimed.

For example, one feature of the present invention, as recited in claim 31 and as similarly recited in claims 32 and 33, includes a means for determining whether or not a meta database is to be searched in accordance with information regarding the database to be searched. King does not disclose this feature. King is directed merely to a method for selecting a parts kit detail. There is no teaching or suggestion in King of determining whether or not a meta database is to be searched, as in the present invention.

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By way of further example, another feature of the present invention, as recited in claim 31 and as similarly recited in claims 32 and 33, includes a means for searching either the meta database or a case database, for a rule for solving a problem. The meta database is searched if it is determined that the meta database is to be searched, and the case database is searched, if it is determined that the meta database is not to be searched. King does not disclose this feature. Again, King is directed merely to a method for selecting a parts kit detail. There is no teaching or suggestion in King of searching either the meta database or a case database, for a rule for solving a problem, as in the present invention.

Therefore, King fails to teach or suggest "means for determining whether or not a meta database is to be searched in accordance with the information on the database to be searched" as recited in claim 31, and as similarly recited in claims 32 and 33.

Furthermore, King fails to teach or suggest "means for searching the meta database, if it is determined that the meta database is to be searched, or searching a case database, if it is determined that the meta database is not to be searched., where the meta database and the case database have been provided in a content, offer server in advance, for a rule for solving the problem in response to an instruction input by the demander and in accordance with the information on the, database to be searched, the meta database including a plurality of rules extracted from a plurality of actual examples regarding a new solution to solve the problem, each of the rules being a physical or chemical rule having been indexed by both an improving physical or chemical parameter and a deteriorating physical or chemical parameter in advance, each of the examples including an analytical instrument to determine an information on a relationship between the new solution and the problem to be solved, the instruction being related to a combination of a state selection, a part selection and an analysis condition of selection, and a corresponding solution comprising a combination of an analytical technique and the analytical instrument" as recited in claim 31, and as similarly recited in claims 32 and 33.

The above noted deficiencies of Koski and King are not supplied by any of the other references or record, particularly August. Therefore, combining the teachings of August with Koski and King still fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention, as now more clearly recited in the claims.

Examiner's response:

Applicant claims that Koski fails to teach or suggest 'determining whether or not the meta database is to be searched in accordance with the information on the database to be searched.' Syeda-Mahmood teaches 'determining whether or not the meta

database is to be searched in accordance with the information on the database to be searched' (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C5:28-38).

The content of claims 31, 32 and 33 are all addressed by Syeda-Mahmood and Baker. Some of the issues that Syeda-Mahmood are 'Case database', 'Meta database', 'Server', 'instruction', 'Means for accepting', 'Request', 'Receiving said data', 'Physical parameter', 'Urge the user to think up an idea', 'Examples of solutions', 'Solutions rules', 'History' and 'Function to extract'.

Claim 32 is addressed by Syeda-Mahmood and Baker. (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:29-64; 'Means for accepting' is accomplished by the 'web server' of Syeda-Mahmood. 'Request' of applicant is equivalent to 'query' Syeda-Mahmood.), (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C5:28-38; Determination of which database to use is executed by the 'refining module' of Syeda-Mahmood.), (**Syeda-Mahmood**, abstract; Recalling which database contains the requested information of applicant is performed by the 'indexing' module of Syeda-Mahmood.), (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:65 through C2:16; 'Physical parameter' of applicant is equivalent to 'image based content' of Syeda-Mahmood. 'Improving physical' or 'deteriorating physical...parameter(s) in advance' of applicant is illustrated by 'Query is posed...may need consolidation and summarization...the transformation...into a form suitable...may require eliciting more information' of Syeda-Mahmood.), (**Baker**, C7:18 through C8:7; 'Display' of applicant is equivalent to 'interface' of Baker. 'Solutions' of applicant is equivalent to 'potential causes of the problem' of Baker. 'Instruments' of applicant is equivalent to 'data from the network is collected' of Baker. 'Rules' of applicant is equivalent to 'Bayesian network' of Baker.)

Claim 32 is addressed by Syeda-Mahmood and Baker. (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:29-64; 'Receiving data' is accomplished by the 'web server' of Syeda-Mahmood. 'Instruction' of applicant is equivalent to 'query' Syeda-Mahmood.) (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C5:28-38; Determination of which database to use is executed by the 'refining module' of Syeda-Mahmood.) (**Syeda-Mahmood**, abstract; Recalling which database contains the requested information of applicant is performed by the 'indexing' module of Syeda-Mahmood.), (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:65 through C2:16; 'Physical parameter' of applicant is equivalent to 'image based content' of Syeda-Mahmood. 'Improving physical' or 'deteriorating physical...parameter(s) in advance' of applicant is illustrated by 'Query is posed...may need consolidation and summarization...the transformation...into a form suitable...may require eliciting more information' of Syeda-Mahmood.) (**Baker**, C7:18 through C8:7; 'Display' of applicant is equivalent to 'interface' of Baker. 'Solutions' of applicant is equivalent to 'potential causes of the problem' of Baker. 'Instruments' of applicant is equivalent to 'data from the network is collected' of Baker. 'Rules' of applicant is equivalent to 'Bayesian network' of Baker.)

Claim 33 is addressed by Syeda-Mahmood and Baker (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:29-64; 'Receiving data' is accomplished by the 'web server' of Syeda-Mahmood. 'Instruction' of applicant is equivalent to 'query' Syeda-Mahmood.), (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C5:28-38; Determination of which database to use is executed by the 'refining module' of Syeda-Mahmood.) (**Syeda-Mahmood**, abstract; Recalling which database contains



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the requested information of applicant is performed by the 'indexing' module of Syeda-Mahmood.), (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:65 through C2:16; 'Physical parameter' of applicant is equivalent to 'image based content' of Syeda-Mahmood. 'Improving physical' or 'deteriorating physical...parameter(s) in advance' of applicant is illustrated by 'Query is posed...may need consolidation and summarization...the transformation...into a form suitable...may require eliciting more information' of Syeda-Mahmood.), (**Baker**, C7:18 through C8:7; 'Display' of applicant is equivalent to 'interface' of Baker. 'Solutions' of applicant is equivalent to 'potential causes of the problem' of Baker. 'Instruments' of applicant is equivalent to 'data from the network is collected' of Baker. 'Rules' of applicant is equivalent to 'Bayesian network' of Baker.)

King is used to introduce the concepts of 'state', 'part selection', 'analysis', 'analytic technique' and 'analytic instrument'. (**King**, 10:65 through C11:13).

10. In reference to the Applicant's argument:

August discloses a system and method for providing interactive dialogue and iterative search functions to find information. However, there is no teaching or suggestion in August of an information service providing system or recording medium, as recited in the claims.

The August system and method for information searching includes the determination of a Community of Interest (COI). Search results are further data mined, using at least one of COI and expert preferences to identify important knowledge, formulation and manipulation of results, and summarization of search results into a document like entity with dynamic attributes described. More specifically, August provides interactive dialogue and iterative search functions to find information on a large network of servers such as the World Wide Web.

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One feature of the present invention, as recited in claim 31 and as similarly recited in claims 32 and 33, includes a means for determining whether or not a meta database is to be searched in accordance with information regarding the database to be searched. August does not disclose this feature.

Another feature of the present invention, as recited in claim 31 and as similarly recited in claims 32 and 33, includes a means for searching either the meta database or a case database, for a rule for solving a problem. The meta database is searched if it is determined that the meta database is to be searched, and the case database is searched, if it is determined that the meta database is not to be searched. August does not disclose this feature.

Therefore, August fails to teach or suggest "means for determining whether, or not a meta database is to be searched in accordance with the information on the database to be searched" as recited in claim 31, and as similarly recited in claims 32 and 33.

Furthermore, August fails to teach or suggest "means for searching the meta. database, if it is determined that the meta database is to be searched, or searching a case database, if it is determined that the meta database is not to be searched, where the meta database and the case database have been provided in a content offer server in advance, for a rule for solving the problem in response to an instruction input by the demander and in accordance with the information on the database to be searched, the meta database including a plurality of rules extracted from a plurality of actual examples regarding a new solution to solve the problem, each of the rules being a physical or chemical rule having been indexed by both an improving physical or chemical parameter and a deteriorating physical or chemical parameter in advance, each of the examples including an analytical instrument to determine an information on a relationship between the new solution and the problem to be solved, the instruction being related to a combination of a state selection, a part selection and an analysis condition of selection, and a corresponding solution comprising a combination of an analytical technique and the, analytical instrument" as recited in claim 31, and as similarly recited in claims 32 and 33.

Koski, King and August each suffer from the same deficiencies relative to the features of the present invention as recited in the claims. Therefore, combining the teachings of Koski, King and August in the manner suggested by the Examiner does not render obvious the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in claims 31-33. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 31-33 as being unpatentable over Koski in view of King, further in view of August is respectfully requested.

Examiner's response:

Claim 32 is addressed by Syeda-Mahmood and Baker. (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:29-64; 'Means for accepting' is accomplished by the 'web server' of Syeda-Mahmood. 'Request' of applicant is equivalent to 'query' Syeda-Mahmood.), (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C5:28-38; Determination of which database to use is executed by the 'refining module' of Syeda-Mahmood.), (**Syeda-Mahmood**, abstract; Recalling which database contains the requested information of applicant is performed by the 'indexing' module of Syeda-Mahmood.), (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:65 through C2:16; 'Physical parameter' of applicant is equivalent to 'image based content' of Syeda-Mahmood. 'Improving physical' or 'deteriorating physical...parameter(s) in advance' of applicant is illustrated by 'Query is posed...may need consolidation and summarization...the transformation...into a form suitable...may require eliciting more information' of Syeda-Mahmood.), (**Baker**, C7:18 through C8:7; 'Display' of applicant is equivalent to 'interface' of Baker. 'Solutions' of applicant is equivalent to 'potential causes of the problem' of Baker. 'Instruments' of applicant is equivalent to 'data from the network is collected' of Baker. 'Rules' of applicant is equivalent to 'Bayesian network' of Baker.)

Claim 32 is addressed by Syeda-Mahmood and Baker. (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:29-64; 'Receiving data' is accomplished by the 'web server' of Syeda-Mahmood. 'Instruction' of applicant is equivalent to 'query' Syeda-Mahmood.) (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C5:28-38; Determination of which database to use is executed by the 'refining module' of Syeda-Mahmood.) (**Syeda-Mahmood**, abstract; Recalling which database contains the requested information of applicant is performed by the 'indexing' module of Syeda-

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Mahmood.), (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:65 through C2:16; 'Physical parameter' of applicant is equivalent to 'image based content' of Syeda-Mahmood. 'Improving physical' or 'deteriorating physical...parameter(s) in advance' of applicant is illustrated by 'Query is posed...may need consolidation and summarization...the transformation...into a form suitable...may require eliciting more information' of Syeda-Mahmood.) (**Baker**, C7:18 through C8:7; 'Display' of applicant is equivalent to 'interface' of Baker. 'Solutions' of applicant is equivalent to 'potential causes of the problem' of Baker. 'Instruments' of applicant is equivalent to 'data from the network is collected' of Baker. 'Rules' of applicant is equivalent to 'Bayesian network' of Baker.)

Claim 33 is addressed by Syeda-Mahmood and Baker (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:29-64; 'Receiving data' is accomplished by the 'web server' of Syeda-Mahmood. 'Instruction' of applicant is equivalent to 'query' Syeda-Mahmood.), (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C5:28-38; Determination of which database to use is executed by the 'refining module' of Syeda-Mahmood.) (**Syeda-Mahmood**, abstract; Recalling which database contains the requested information of applicant is performed by the 'indexing' module of Syeda-Mahmood.), (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C1:65 through C2:16; 'Physical parameter' of applicant is equivalent to 'image based content' of Syeda-Mahmood. 'Improving physical' or 'deteriorating physical...parameter(s) in advance' of applicant is illustrated by 'Query is posed...may need consolidation and summarization...the transformation...into a form suitable...may require eliciting more information' of Syeda-Mahmood.), (**Baker**, C7:18 through C8:7; 'Display' of applicant is equivalent to 'interface' of Baker. 'Solutions' of

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applicant is equivalent to 'potential causes of the problem' of Baker. 'Instruments' of applicant is equivalent to 'data from the network is collected' of Baker. 'Rules' of applicant is equivalent to 'Bayesian network' of Baker.)

11. In reference to the Applicant's argument:

**New Claims 35-43**

New claims 35-43 were added so as to more clearly describe features of the present invention. Claims 35-43 are dependent on claims 1, 8, 11, 12, and 30-34, respectively. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 35-43 are allowable for at least the reasons previously discussed regarding independent claims 1, 8, 11, 12, and 30-34.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1-43 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 1-43 is respectfully requested.

Examiner's response:

Syeda-Mahmood illustrates 'determining' which database to access will result in the answers/solutions from that database to be displayed (**Syeda-Mahmood**, C6:60 through C7:13; By 'determining' which database to access will result in the answers/solutions from that database to be displayed.)

***Examination Considerations***

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12. The claims and only the claims form the metes and bounds of the invention.

"Office personnel are to give the claims their broadest reasonable interpretation in light of the supporting disclosure. *In re Morris*, 127 F.3d 1048, 1054-55, 44USPQ2d 1023, 1027-28 (Fed. Cir. 1997). Limitations appearing in the specification but not recited in the claim are not read into the claim. *In re Prater*, 415 F.2d, 1393, 1404-05, 162 USPQ 541, 550-551 (CCPA 1969)" (MPEP p 2100-8, c 2, I 45-48; p 2100-9, c 1, I 1-4). The Examiner has the full latitude to interpret each claim in the broadest reasonable sense. Examiner will reference prior art using terminology familiar to one of ordinary skill in the art. Such an approach is broad in concept and can be either explicit or implicit in meaning.

13. Examiner's Notes are provided to assist the applicant to better understand the nature of the prior art, application of such prior art and, as appropriate, to further indicate other prior art that maybe applied in other office actions. Such comments are entirely consistent with the intent and sprit of compact prosecution. However, and unless otherwise stated, the Examiner's Notes are not prior art but link to prior art that one of ordinary skill in the art would find inherently appropriate.

14. Examiner's Opinion: Paragraphs 12 and 13 apply. The Examiner has full latitude to interpret each claim in the broadest reasonable sense.

***Conclusion***

15. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

16. Claims 1-43 are rejected.

***Correspondence Information***

17. Any inquiry concerning this information or related to the subject disclosure should be directed to the Examiner Peter Coughlan, whose telephone number is (571) 272-5990. The Examiner can be reached on Monday through Friday from 7:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor David Vincent can be reached at (571) 272-3687. Any response to this office action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks,  
Washington, D. C. 20231;

Hand delivered to:

Receptionist,  
Customer Service Window,  
Randolph Building,  
401 Dulany Street,  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313,  
(located on the first floor of the south side of the Randolph Building);

or faxed to:

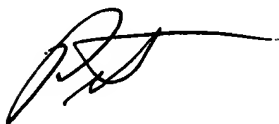
(571) 273-8300 (for formal communications intended for entry.)

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for



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unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have any questions on access to Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free).



Peter Coughlan

8/3/2006

